ALICE FINN A MERMAID.

Upon a morning jocular, The half of one binocular Might have observed two sailormen a strolling by the sea, And by their actions dignified, It very easy signified That one of 'em was Henry Smith, and one of 'em was me.

The day was rather tropical, Our talk was rather topical. When suddenly upon a rock we saw just what we seen: A mermaid quite attractive like A-settin' there, inactive like, And sort of doin' up 'er hair, which same was long and green.

I made as if to speak to her, But what I said was Greek to her: For she remained ob-liv-i-ous, a-powderin' 'er nose, And with a pair of girley-gews. She done her hair in curley-kews, And kind o' smiled, as if to say, "I'm pretty, I suppose."

I yelled, "Ahoy there!" breezily. And snapped 'er fingers in the air as perky as could be. (The way you talk to fareigners) At two lone, lornsome mariners, And one of 'em was Henry Smith and one of 'em was me.

Though Henry's face was laffable, I doffed my bonnet affable, And said; "Though me and Henry Smith has sailed for years a score, In schooner, junk and tub marine, A charming maiden submarine,

A settin' plain before our eyes, we never seen before." She looked at first suspiciously,

- And then she spoke deliciously, "I've often wished a sailorman me hand and heart to win." Says Henry, "Thankee, marm," says 'e, Says she, "I meant no harm," says she, "For I'm a niece o' Neptune, and me name is Alice Finn."

speaks without a falter: "Ma'am, 've tackled around Gibraltar, ma'am, I've navigated rocks and shoals on many ocean tours; I've sailed through Spain and Venice, too, never seen a menace to The art o' navigation like them handsome eyes o' yours.

Says Hank (his mind's so sordid-like!): I've got some money hoarded-like. Full fifteen hundred dollars in the bank o' Greenwich town,

(Intention matrimonial) And in yon housecolonial. A mermaid and a mariner might wed and settle down."

Says she, "My fear of losing you "-Makes matters hard in choosing you"-Just then above the waves appeared her mother, Mrs. Finn, The said: "Who's them there men, my dear? Who said: What! flirting there again, my dear? Your father's home for luncheon, now-come in, my child, come in."

So Alice, lookin' sweetly up. Just tied her back hair neatly up. Then dove ker-plunk into the sea and never spoke at all; Just gave a sort o' hop-and-skip, And hit the water flop-and-flip, Without so much as askin' if we'd drop in for a call!

Says Hank, "She tried to divvil us!" Says I, "Her natur's frivolons!" Says Hank, "Her mind is shallow, but 'er home is deep," says 'e. And so, as meek as tailor-men, Back walked two lonesome sailormen, And one of 'em was Henry Smith and one of 'em was me.

-The Century.



By ALBERT W. TOLMAN.

The following narrative recounts a ney had been hard by day. Now, stirring experience of Joseph Bel- when the thin, shifting moonlight mont, a young Englishman of science. rendered it difficult to calculate dis-The story is given practically in his tance, and black chasms of shadow flung themselves athwart the path, own words: In the latter part of 1889 I was the idea was not to be entertained for

employed in Ecuador by one of the an instant. Food, warmth, shelter English universities to estimate alti- lay before us; to retreat meant to tudes and measure distances among perish of cold and hunger and fa- finger to hold on with. So we ducked the metal was reduced last October the higher peaks of the Andes, and tigue

had the same effect that our steps next below, and took away its support from the next above. A single false step, a slip on the part of either, would involve both in a fearful catastrophe. We did not say a word to each oth-

er. All our energies were needed for crossing the slope. The fatiguing nature of that cautious tread I cannot tell you. Every muscle was tense to rigidity, every nerve keyed high; our eyes were strained to detect the smallest motion, and our ears were alert to catch the slightest sound.

Seventy-five feet out we reached a boulder that rose above the shingle. It barely afforded footing for us both. We did not dare to remain long upon it, for the temperature was far below the freezing point, and we were stiff with cold. After a few minutes Manuel made a sign and once more we took up our perilous journey.

We had gone about fifteen feet, when my guide, who was two yards in advance, gave a sharp exclamation. There was a harsh rattling sound.

"Run, senor, run!" Manuel shouted, and his great leaps set me the example.

He must have stepped on what was the keystone of the entire mass, so set that its slightest movement would affect the whole. As I ran I cast one hasty glance upward. I verily believe that every piece of rock from top to bottom was in motion at once. The whole mountainside seemed to be crawling toward us.

First there came the faint rolling and clinking of scattered pebbles, then a loud rattle, swelling into the roar of an avalanche, as rock after rock added itself to the sliding mass. One instant the declivity lay silent and motionless in the moonlight; the next it was all alive, slipping, grinding, roaring, with the sound of a stone crusher in full action.

It was useless to think of gaining the ledge at which we had aimed. Twenty-five feet below it was another, not quite so high, but longer and narrower, and toward this we bent our course in flying leaps.

There was no chance to pick the best spot for holding on. We threw ourselves down upon the ledge on our faces, fortunately clutching a shoulder. Had we gained the boulder above, at which we had aimed, we should have been swept away by the flood that poured over it. As it was it broke the force of the slide and kept the great mass of rock away from us.

Our situation was still perilous in the extreme. The ledge which afforded us refuge rose only a few inches above the surrounding debris. Had the stones confined themselves. to rolling it would have been bad enough. But the smaller ones, deflected and shot high into the air by passing over the ledge above, rained down upon us like the spray of a

rocky waterfall. It was fortunate that our eyes and teeth escaped, for, as we lay, we were obliged to face the avalanche. Of course we could not shelter our faces with our hands, for we needed every

had had. There was every reason for thinking that the thing had happened many times, although I very much doubt if human feet had ever before been the agency to set the mass in motion.

Manuel had suffered worse than I. for he had occupied a more exposed position. When I looked at his face in the moonlight I could not repress an exclamation of horror. He was fearfully cut and bruised, having a ragged gash on his right cheek and another above his eye. I was apparently in little better plight, but later, after the dirt and blood had been washed off, my injuries turned out to be not severe. Our clothing hung in tatters about the upper portion of our bodies, which were black and blue

> ceived. Now that the rocks were gone the remainder of the slope gave us no more trouble. An hour later we were warming ourselves by the spirit lamp in our tent, and the aroma or boiling coffee was very grateful to our nostrils. We spent the next day in resting and attending to our injuries and repairing the damage to our clothing. It was a full week before we wholly recovered from the results of our adventure .--- Youth's Companion.

from the bombardment we had re-



It has been recommended that new courses for the study of electricity be established at the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

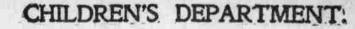
It has been found that electrical currents will soften concrete. This is of importance in the wrecking of old foundations.

At the bottom of the sea there are in all 250,000 miles of cable, representing \$250,000,000. The average life of the cable is forty years.

A new process for hardening steel has been discovered. The temper is increased by electricity and the new process is said to be superior to any other.

Ancient philosophers suspected, and modern scientists have practically proved that the ocean is the great original storehouse of organic life, and that the ancestors of all that lives and moves upon the land and in the air at one time dwelt in and drew their nourishmentfrom the waters of the deep.

A great development in the use and manufacture of alumnium in England is being looked for, and the company which has a monopoly of the business is planning for a great enlargement in 1909. The price of our heads as low as possible, and the to \$500 a ton, and this has led to a demand for it in new fields, notably





IMPOLITENESS. A 'normous dog came in one day, And he and I commenced to play; And we had fun, and nice fun, too, Long as he 'haved as a dog should do, But when he got so awful rough, I hollered that I'd had enougn, But 'stead of stopping as he should, As anybody'd think he would, He knocked me down and tried to see If he could sit on all of me. -From "Our Baby Book," by Fanny Y. Cory.

TRUSTING THE BOY.

A business man sat in his office talking with a friend, when a messenger boy appeared in the doorway. He was so small that his chin hardly came above the edge of the desk, but he had a fine air of self-reliance and an honest-looking pair of blue eyes.

The business man smiled and nodded, and the boy smiled and nodded back at him. Without many words there seemed to be a good understanding between them.

"Remember where the First National Bank is?" asked the man, carefully placing a roll of banknotes between the leaves of a bank book and snapping a rubber band round the cover.

"Yes, sir," said the boy. "Still in the same place, sir."

"Well, take this over and deposit it for me," and the man handed the boy the bank book and its contents.

The boy vanished, and the visitor drew a breath of surprise mingled with consternation.

"Do you think that's safe?" he asked.

"Perfectly," answered the other. "But do you think it's good for the boy?"

"How so?"

"To put temptation in his way like that. Why, you must have trusted him with fully a hundred dollars! That's a pretty big temptation for a small youngster. It would be worse for him to steal it than for you to lose it.

"I have thought of that," said the business man, more soberly, "and some youngsters I wouldn't risk with it. But the way I look at it is this: The earlier a boy gets used to temptation in this world the better he is able to resist it when he grows older. "Now, this is the kind of a boy who likes to be trusted; appreciates it; hugs it to his bosom; considers himself, in fact, as an essential part of my business.

"The first time I let him deposit money for me it was a case of necessity. My clerks were all out, I couldn't go myself, and yet the money door and cried again. But the door had to be in the bank before closing did not open. So, slowly, slowly, a

neighbor a question, and he listens closely to the third player's answerfor it belongs to him. Suppose his question were: "Are you fond of potatoes?" and the answer, "Yes, when they are fried."

In this way each player will have one question and one answer belonging to himself which he must remember. The game continues until each one has both answered a question and asked one. Each one must bear in mind that the question he was asked and the answer his neighbor returned are the ones belonging to him.

At the end of the game, each one is required to announce aloud his question and answer. For example, player No. 2 says:

"My question was: 'Do you like roses?' and my answer was: 'Yes, when they are fried.' "

No. 3's announcement would probably be in this wise:

"My question was: 'Are you fond of potatoes?' and my answer was: 'Yes, when they are very pretty, but they don't wear very well.' '

Hilarious laughter will greet these crooked answers to the cross-questions .--- Good Literature.

HONEST LITTLE DICK.

In all my life I never saw so honest a little cat as our Dick, says one who writes in Little Folks. He not only never was guilty of theft, but he we ild not allow any other cat to steal if he could help it. The dear little fellow, however, was strongly tempted once, and came very near losing his good name.

One day the cook carried out a pail of nice little frost-fish, and set it down in the yard. Dick was there. Dick always was near by when there were good things to eat. The cook went back into the house, and Dick sat down to wait for her return; and two of his especial friends were at the window upstairs looking down to see what "henest Dick" would do.

The cook was a long time coming back to dress the fish; and all the while Dick kept watch-now on the pail, now on the kitchen door. At last he went somewhat nearer to the pail, then nearer, then nearer. Ah! frost-fish smell so good. Dick's little nose almost touched them. And then he sat down and cried at the top of his voice for cook to return quickly and save him from being a thief.

But she did not come. At last Dick put his forepaws on the edge of the pail. Then he looked at the kitchen time. So I rang up the messenger paw reached down in the pail. But it came back with a jerk, empty, and its owner ran around the corner of the house where he could not see or smell those nice frost-fish any more, He did not want to be a thief, and we believe the little fellow never came so near it again.

to collect information about the country and its people. During December |lence, gazing out upon the slope. I camped for some time with a single guide on the slopes of Chimborazo, about 1000 feet below the snow line.

My companion was called Manuel: he had no surname that I could discover. He was a full-blooded Indian and stolid, but thoroughly trustworthy.

either side, in creeping cautiously up precipice. steep slopes of rolling stones, and in altitudes.

One morning we left our camp at early dawn, and did not turn back until late in the evening. Our labors bring upon us.

that day were more than usually arduous, and the thinness of the air panting breaths we had crept along knife-like edges until late in the afternoon. The sun was setting, and we were two miles from camp.

For some time we proceeded very slowly. The light disappeared from the west, the stars came out and the moon bathed the mountainside in a It was a declivity innocent enough to

lower edge it stopped as clean and

foot of an unscalable cliff; 200 feet below it stopped. I give these figures as approximate merely, for in the moonlight it was difficult to judge accurately of distance.

Beyond the slope lay our camp, and in some way we must get across. but we knew that if once those rocks were started rolling, we should be swept over the precipice in the avalanche. The passage would have been a very easy matter had there been any ice upon the incline to cement the pieces together. But so far as e could see there was not a particle, nor was it difficult to understand why this was so. The slope faced the bortheast, and all day long the hot iguatorial sun lay upon it, preventing any moisture from gathering.

One way or the other we must go. We could not stand long inactive without becoming so chilled that we could not go either forward a back. Which course should we tak retrace

he jour-1

The answer was plaine our way was Mmay

For several minutes we stood in si-"Shall we try it?" said I at last to my guide.

It was the first time in our acquaintance of two months that I had ever seen him show hesitation; generally he was prompt in his decisions. who had been recommended to me by But this time he realized the danger a Spanish official. I found him silent better than I did, and before replying me to relax my hold. My grasp was he stooped, picked up a bit of rock. and flung it out into the middle of

Much of our time was spent in the declivity. It started a miniature making our way along the summit of avalanche, which swept rapidly down risk of his own life, let go the ledge sharp ridges that fell off abruptiy on and disappeared over the edge of the with one hand and clutched my shoul-

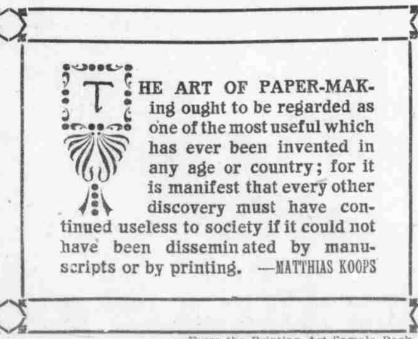
The most terrifying thing about it scaling sheer precipices, exposed to was that after the rocks fell we could the cruel winds that haunt those high hear no sound for several seconds, and then only a faint rumble thous-

> ands of feet below. It was a warn- surface. At one instant a stony Niaing of the fate that a mis-step might gara seemed to be roaring around

delay, and at last we decided to at- the ravine. The next moment there caused us much suffering. With tempt the passage. The one thing was utter stillness, as sudden as if a that gave us hope of getting over in great door, padded and muffled, had safety was the appearance here and shut out the sound. Only the snowthere of a boulder, apparently projecting from the solid ledge beneath, rearing its head above the surround-

ing debris like a little island. Manuel went first, putting his feet down very carefully, one after the pale bluish radiance. Manuel, who other. I followed, stepping exactly ken, to be sure, by a few projecting was going ahead, came to a sudden in his tracks. Once started, there was ledges, but in the main free from obstop. Right across our path lay a no turning back. I did not fully reslope of rocks about 300 feet wide, alize the treacherous nature of that rocky slope until we were upon it. jecture. As the cliff above disintelook upon, a smooth slant at an angle We were fifteen minutes traversing a grated under the action of frost and of about forty degrees, but at the space of fifty feet.

square as if it had been cut off with I grew that we had come. The whole came charged with fragments ready a knife. We were about three-quar- slide was bound together as a single to be set in motion by the least imters of the way down. Five hundred mass. The displacement of one bit pulse. Possibly the next falling rock



-From the Printing Art Sample Book.

missiles beat a tattoo upon our skulls until our hair was matted with blood. Had the stones been any larger we should have been battered into insensibility and quickly hurled over the precipice.

Once I was in deadly peril. A rock, larger than the rest, struck my fingers, numbing them and causing torn away, and for the fraction of a terrible second I was at the mercy of the torrent. Then my guide, at the der. Again I regained my place and clung with redoubled strength.

The force of the slide abated. The dust cleared. Lastly a few scattered rocks dashed down over the denuded us; then we heard the distant rumble But nothing was to be gained by of its fall die away in the depths of crowned peak, high above us, gave

back the pale light of the moon. Then we saw the reason why the

mass had slid so smoothly and rapidly. The slope was practically a plane inclined at a sharp angle, brostructions. How long it had been collecting its load we could only conrain and ice, small pieces fell from it The farther we got out the sorrier one by one, until the whole slant be-

feet above us the slope started at the of rock imparted an impulse to the of any considerable size might have

by telegraph and telephone companies. Aluminum, it may be noted, is used in the new explosive "ammonal." of which much is expected because it does not, like lyddite, deton-

ate on contact, but will penetrate armor or earthworks before exploding.

In a study, which purports to be entirely scientific, of the alleged connection between the physical and mental character of an individual and his kandwriting, Mons. Solange Pellat, an expert attached to the Tribunal of the Seine, Paris, maintains that distinct relations exist between the handwriting and the voice. An expert, he declares, can determine from the handwriting whether the writer's voice is high or low in pitch, sonorous or veiled, harsh or soft and agreeable. But he remarks that in all cases

where it is sought to determine character from handwriting; great pains should be taken to choose for examination only writing that has been done under normal conditions.

Among the industries that have been profoundly modified by the advent of electricity into daily use is that of making porcelain. Formerly artistic considerations alone governed the various operations of the workmen in porcelain, but now, since this substance is employed for insulators in all electric installations, scientific processes have been introduced in its manufacture which demand a great deal of special attention. The exact amount of contraction that the clay undergoes, the exact temperature to which it is submitted in the process of baking, the constant employment of instruments for measuring the temperature and for determining the size of certain pieces - such are

Satisfactory Anyway.

purposes.

among the essentials in the modern

art of porcelain making for electric

In a rural district a Scottish minlster was out taking an evening walk when he came upon one of his parishloners lying in a ditch. "Where have you been the nicht, Andrew?" "Weel. I dinna richtly ken," answered the prostrate sinner, "whether it was a wedding or a funeral, but whatever it was, it has been a most extraordinary success. "-Bellman.

Boon For Writers.

"I think," said the struggling writer, "that the publishers might well take a hint from the politicians." "In what respect?"

"Publicity for all contributions. How thr would help! "-Louisville Courier-Journal.

company, and-"

"You'd never even seen the boy before?" interrupted the other.

"If I had I'd never noticed him particularly, Well, in came our friend Johnny-just a plain, honestappearing youngster in uniform. He looked scared when he saw the roll of bills, and that gave me confidence in him. But he was back in ten minutes, and when he came in it was almost

funny to look at him. "Responsibility had made him grow up, so to speak, in those ten minutes. You see, I had trusted him, and he knew it, and he had proved himself worthy. Won his spurs, as it were.

"Now I have an arrangement with the messenger company to send Johnny whenever he's in when I ask for a messenger. And Johnny, unknown to himself, is right on the way to a better job in this office when he gets big enough."

As he spoke the door opened, and Johnny, grinning a dignified grin, appeared with the bank book .--- Youth's Companion.

GAMES FOR NIGHTS AT HOME. Almost every one is ready and will-

evenings many of us are compelled tell me how you discovered the deto stay at home, for one reason or another. So it will be nice to have some good games suggested for our entertainment.

game.

(a word beginning with A) and commences thus:

"I apprenticed my son to a green grocer, and the first thing he sold was 3D A---

Second player: "Was it apples?" No."

Third player: "Was it almonds?" No.

Fourth player: "Was it asparagus?" "No."

And so on until some player asks: Was it artichokes?" "Yes." The correct guesser may now ap- sician in motley of a town in Prussia. prentice his son, and so the game goes 9. The trip. 10. We form a facon, no player, by the bye, being al- tor of 21. 11. The abandoned hamlowed more than one guess in his let. 12. A wedding token, and a

Another jolly game is "Cross Ques- A past day, a present one, and all tions and Crooked Answers."

sit in a circle, and until the end of Pastoral poems of royalty. 17. The the game none should speak above a king's daughter. 18. A legend for whisper.

The first player whispers to his only remaining singer. 20. An Italneighbor, asking some such question inn girl goes by. 21. The old salt. as, "Do you like roses?"

The second player must remember this question-it belongs to him. He seat of laziness, 25. Earthly bliss answers, "Yes, they smell so sweetly," and the first player must remember this answer-it belongs to him.

The second player now asks his mation

TOLD OF INDIA.

An Indian merchant wished to dispose of an old elephant and took it to a fair. As soon as he arrived he noticed a man who, without saying a word, began to walk around the animal, examining it attentively on all sides. The merchant became very anxious, for he feared that the man had found out that his elephant was not worth much. He took him aside and whispered in his ear: "I see a customer coming. Do not say a word until I have sold the beast, and I will give you fifty rupees." The man looked at the merchant and wonderingly complied with his request. It hapened that the customer had more money than sense, so that he was easily taken in. When the bargain was completed and the elephant led away by its new owner, the merchant handed the fifty rupees to the silent ing to join in a jolly game; and these man, saying: "Now, I want you to fect in his left leg. I thought I had concealed it so skillfully." "I have discovered nothing," replied the stranger. "It is the first elephant I "I Apprenticed My Son" is a jolly have ever seen, and I wanted to know which was the head and which was The first player thinks of artichoke the tail."-From the Newark Call.

SUGGESTED POEMS.

In each phrase below a well-known poem is suggested. How many of them can you guess?

1. The toil of affection's wasted. 2. The attempt of Pius X. on a male person. 3. A temporary home by the sea. 4. Imprisoned by wintry elements. 5. The burglary of a door fastening. 6. The suspension of a waterfowl. 7. One engaged in commerce in an Italian city. S. A muturn, and not more than two turns. volume, 13. The stint of work, 14. future time. 15. Camping on the To play it, it is best for you all to same spot that we did before. 16. faultfinders. 19. The song of the 22. Poem on a Hellenic vase. 23. Poem of the blues. 24. The country forfeited.

Belgium officially frowns on cro-